

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/018392

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ D01F6/74, 6/94

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ D01F6/74, 6/94

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1926-1996	Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1994-2005
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 8-27623 A (Toyobo Co., Ltd.), 30 January, 1996 (30.01.96), Claims; Par. No. [0018]; examples (Family: none)	1-14
A	JP 2003-213127 A (Toyobo Co., Ltd.), 30 July, 2003 (30.07.03), Claims (Family: none)	1-14
A	JP 8-226080 A (Toyobo Co., Ltd.), 03 September, 1996 (03.09.96), Claims & US 5552221 A	1-14

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&"	document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
04 March, 2005 (04.03.05)Date of mailing of the international search report
22 March, 2005 (22.03.05)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	'COLOUR INDEX THIRD EDITION VOLUME 4', 1971, THE SOCIETY OF DYERS AND COLOURISTS, PAGE 4618	1-14
P, X	JP 2004-27431 A (Toyobo Co., Ltd.), 29 January, 2004 (29.01.04), Claims (Family: none)	1-14

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Claim 1 relates to a polybenzazole fiber which is specified by the matter "the value of strength retention (%) defined by $(a/b) \times 100$ is 80% or higher." Claim 1 involves all fibers having this property. However, the fibers which are disclosed in the meaning of Article 5 of the PCT are limited to the polybenzazole fiber "which contains a specific amount of an organic pigment which has such high heat resistance that its heat decomposition temperature is 200°C or higher and which is soluble in a mineral acid, preferably" The fiber claimed is considered to lack a support by the description in the meaning of Article 6 of the PCT.

The term "polybenzazole fiber in which the value of strength retention (%) defined by $(a/b) \times 100$ is 80% or higher" cannot specify the scope of fibers having this material property even when technical common sense at the time of the filing of this application is taken into account. Consequently, claim 1 does not comply with the requirement of clearness in the meaning of Article 6 of the PCT.

Therefore, a search for claim 1 and the parts in which claim 1 is cited was made with respect to the fiber which is a "polybenzazole fiber in which the value of strength retention (%) defined by $(a/b) \times 100$ is 80% or higher" and which contains the ingredient shown in claim 5, as specifically disclosed in the description. Furthermore, a complete search was made with respect to claim 5.